

**To:** Vela, Austin[Vela.Austin@epa.gov]; Ostrander, David[Ostrander.David@epa.gov]  
**From:** Russo, Rebecca  
**Sent:** Wed 8/19/2015 10:19:01 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Reg 8 pre-spill congressional inquiries

I believe all of these were identified as needed Area Command response. I don't have any further contacts for you than that. David O.?

Thanks!

Rebecca A. Russo

Region 8 Congressional and Intergovernmental Liaison

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**From:** Vela, Austin  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2015 4:18 PM  
**To:** Russo, Rebecca; Ostrander, David  
**Subject:** Reg 8 pre-spill congressional inquiries

Can you provide Reg. 8 contacts or people here at the UAC that can answer the pre-spill activities of Region 8?

Thanks.

Explain the relationship between the work at the Red and Bonita mine site removal action and the Gold King mine.

Confirm whether the work opening up Portal #7 at the Gold King Mine was part of the time-critical removal action at the Red & Bonita Mines, and

was being done under the 9/24/14 TCRAM, whether there was a separate TCRAM for the Gold King; or whether EPA considered the work as part of the ongoing investigation of the Upper Animas Mining District site.

HQ-EOC sent me the attached R8 fact sheet and funding authority memo. 1. I received an inquiry from HEC Committee staff asking why it was a "time-critical" removal action if we've been investigating at the site since the early 2000's. 2. Also, needs additional information on whether the "time-critical" portion refers to just Red Bonita or Gold King Mine also.

Identify everyone that was present at the time of the incident, what their role was, and who was involved with making the decision to do the work at the Gold King mine

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